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09/909,369	07/19/2001	Sean Connolly	1187	9847

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EXAMINER

SHIMIZU, MATSUICHIRO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2635

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/909,369

Applicant(s)

CONNOLLY ET AL.

Examiner

Matsuichiro Shimizu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-5, 7, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Goldberg (6,331,817).

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Goldberg teaches a system for tracking portable devices comprising: a transmitter (col. 3, lines 19-25 and col. 5, lines 21-31, transmitter via RF communication or Bluetooth communication associated with communication device 216) transmitting wireless inquiries to a plurality of portable devices (col. 5, lines 21-31, locating inquiry to devices); a receiver (col. 3, lines 19-25 and col. 5, lines 21-31, receiving the reply from relayed back message from devices via RF communication or Bluetooth communication associated with communication device 216) receiving replies to the inquiries from the portable devices ; a memory (col. 2, line 49-62, data memory 204 set of specific objects associated with devices)

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arrangement storing identifier data corresponding to the portable devices; a processor (col. 2, lines 49–62, , processor 202 coupled to memory 204) coupled to the memory arrangement and to the receiver, the processor retrieving from each reply, identifier data uniquely identifying a particular one of the portable devices (col. 5, lines 21–31, identification associated with tracked object and missing object) which generated the reply and comparing the identifier data to the stored identifier data; and a portable device control system coupled to the processor and controlled based on the comparison of the stored identifier data to the identifier data retrieved from the replies (col. 2, lines 4–18, object 112, 104, 112 are tagged for identification purposes).

Regarding claim 2, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter and the receiver include a Bluetooth radio transceiver which utilizes a 2.4 GHZ Short Range Radio protocol (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, Bluetooth transceiver 120).

Regarding claim 3, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the portable device includes a Bluetooth radio transceiver utilizing a 2.4 GHz Short Range Radio protocol (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, Bluetooth transceiver 120).

Regarding claim 4, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the portable devices include at least one of laptop computers, bar code scanners, computing terminals, beepers, phones, printers and personal digital assistants (col. 3, lines 48–57, cell phone 420 for identification purposes).

Regarding claim 5, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the inquiries include an inquiry access code which prompts the portable devices to generate the corresponding replies (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, response via interrogator 214).

Regarding claim 7, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the portable device control system includes a sound arrangement providing a sound alert when the identifier data retrieved from the replies matches to the stored identifier data (col. 3, lines 4–12; col. 5, lines 55–65, if not in possession of trusted person, speaker alarm 212 is generated).

Regarding claim 11, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the portable device control system is activated when the identifier data retrieved from the replies does not match to the stored identifier data (col. 3, lines 4–12; col. 5, lines 55–65, if not in possession of trusted person or stored identifier data, speaker alarm 212 is generated).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner

to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 8–10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Jenkins (5,801,618).

Regarding claims 8–10, Goldberg teaches the portable device control system coupled to the processor and controlled based on the comparison of the stored identifier data to the identifier data retrieved from the replies (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, object 112, 104, 112 are tagged for identification purposes). But Goldberg does not teach the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, a display arrangement displaying to security personnel an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data.

However, Jenkins teaches, in the art of locating system, the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, a display arrangement displaying to security personnel an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data (abstract, lines

10-27 and col. 3, lines 11-53, video arrangement associated with taping or recording the vehicle movement, transponder associated with the identified object or vehicle, locked state of gate in the view of video recording) for the purpose of providing remote control of objects. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, a display arrangement displaying to security personnel an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data in the device of Goldberg because Goldberg suggest the processor retrieves from the reply from the located object and Jenkins teaches the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, a display arrangement displaying to security personnel an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data for the purpose of providing remote control of objects.

Claims 6, 13, 16-20 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Worger et al. (5,664,113).

Regarding claims 6 and 13, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the processor retrieves from the reply from the located object (col. 5, lines 48–54, 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, response via interrogator 214). But Goldberg does not teach the processor retrieves from the reply, date and time when the reply was generated, the processor determining a corresponding employee identifying number as a function of the identifier data and storing the data and time into a data record corresponding to the employee identifying number; and a Radio Frequency Identification tag situated on each of the portable devices; and a Radio Frequency Identifier receiver coupled to the processor and being capable of detecting the presence of the tag in a predetermined area, wherein the portable device control system is activated when at least one of (a) the Radio Frequency Identifier receiver detects the tag in the predetermined area and (b) the identifier data retrieved from the replies matches to the stored identifier data.

However, Worger teaches, in the art of asset control system, the processor retrieves from the reply, date and time when the reply was generated, the processor determining a corresponding employee identifying number as a function of the identifier data and storing the data and time into a data record corresponding to the employee identifying number (col. 5, lines 52–65 and col. 8, lines 19–61, caretakers 38 associated with tag 58 and time stamp associated with the caretaker's performance); and a Radio Frequency Identification tag situated on each of the portable devices; and a Radio Frequency Identifier receiver coupled to the processor and being capable of detecting the presence of the tag in a predetermined area, wherein the portable device control system is activated when at least one of (a) the Radio Frequency Identifier receiver detects the tag in the predetermined area and (b) the identifier data

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retrieved from the replies matches to the stored identifier data (col. 5, lines 52–56; col. 8, line 52–col. 9, line 6, predetermined area or zone wherein caretakers associated with employee ID 58 and time stamp is located) for the purpose of providing asset control. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the processor retrieves from the reply, date and time when the reply was generated, the processor determining a corresponding employee identifying number as a function of the identifier data and storing the data and time into a data record corresponding to the employee identifying number; and a Radio Frequency Identification tag situated on each of the portable devices; and a Radio Frequency Identifier receiver coupled to the processor and being capable of detecting the presence of the tag in a predetermined area, wherein the portable device control system is activated when at least one of (a) the Radio Frequency Identifier receiver detects the tag in the predetermined area and (b) the identifier data retrieved from the replies matches to the stored identifier data in the device of Goldberg because Goldberg suggest the processor retrieves from the reply from the located object and Worger teaches the processor retrieves from the reply, date and time when the reply was generated, the processor determining a corresponding employee identifying number as a function of the identifier data and storing the data and time into a data record corresponding to the employee identifying number; and a Radio Frequency Identification tag situated on each of the portable devices; and a Radio Frequency Identifier receiver coupled to the processor and being capable of detecting the presence of the tag in a predetermined area, wherein the portable device control system is activated when at least one of (a) the Radio Frequency Identifier receiver detects the tag in the predetermined area and (b) the identifier data retrieved from the

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replies matches to the stored identifier data for the purpose of providing asset control.

Regarding claim 16, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 13, wherein the portable device includes a Bluetooth radio transceiver utilizing a 2.4 GHz Short Range Radio protocol (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, Bluetooth transceiver 120).

Regarding claim 17, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 13, wherein the inquiries include an inquiry access code which prompts the portable devices to generate the corresponding replies (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, response via interrogator 214).

Regarding claim 18, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 16, wherein before retrieving step, receiving the inquiries by the particular device; and generating the reply as a function of the inquiry access code (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, response via interrogator 214).

All subject matters in claim 19 are disclosed in claims 6 and 13, and therefore rejection of the subject matters expressed in claim 19 are met by references and associated arguments applied to rejection of claims 6 and 13.

Regarding claim 20, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 13 wherein the portable device control system includes a sound arrangement providing a sound alert when the identifier data retrieved from the replies matches to the stored identifier data (col. 3, lines 4-12; col. 5, lines 55-65, if not in possession of trusted person, speaker alarm 212 is generated).

Regarding claim 23, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 13, wherein the portable device control system is activated when the identifier data retrieved from the replies does not match to the stored identifier data (col. 3, lines 4-

12; col. 5, lines 55–65, if not in possession of trusted person or stored identifier data, speaker alarm 212 is generated).

All subject matters in claim 24 are disclosed in claim 13, and therefore rejection of the subject matters expressed in claim 24 are met by references and associated arguments applied to rejection of claim 13.

Claims 21–22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Worger as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Jenkins (5,801,618).

Regarding claims 21–22, Goldberg teaches the portable device control system coupled to the processor and controlled based on the comparison of the stored identifier data to the identifier data retrieved from the replies (col. 2, line 4 to col. 3, line 36, object 112, 104, 112 are tagged for identification purposes). But Goldberg in view of Worger does not teach the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data.

However, Jenkins teaches, in the art of locating system, the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data (abstract, lines 10–27 and col. 3, lines 11–53, video

arrangement associated with taping or recording the vehicle movement, transponder associated with the identified object or vehicle, locked state of gate in the view of video recording) for the purpose of providing remote control of objects. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data in the device of Goldberg in view of Worger because Goldberg in view of Worger suggest the processor retrieves from the reply from the located object and Jenkins teaches the locating system includes a video arrangement taping an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data, and a locking arrangement locking an area from which the replies are received when the identifier data retrieved from the corresponding replies matches to the stored identifier data for the purpose of providing remote control of objects.

Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Worger et al. (5,664,113) as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Reis et al. (5,686,902).

Regarding claim 15, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 13, wherein the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries. But Goldberg in view of Worger does not teach the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously.

However, Reis teaches, in the art of asset control system, the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously (col. 6, lines 46-61, one to many broadcast) for the purpose of providing all tags to respond. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously in the device of Goldberg in view of Worger because Goldberg in view of Worger suggest the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries and Reis teaches the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously for the purpose of providing all tags to respond.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Reis et al. (5,686,902).

Regarding claim 12, Goldberg teaches the system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries. But Goldberg does not teach the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously.

However, Reis teaches, in the art of asset control system, the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously (col. 6, lines 46-61, one to many broadcast) for the purpose of providing all tags to respond. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously in the device of Goldberg because Goldberg suggest the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries and Reis teaches the transmitter transmits the wireless inquiries contentiously for the purpose of providing all tags to respond.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matsuichiro Shimizu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5841. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik, can be reached on (703-305-4704). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-305-3988).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-8576).

Matsuichiro Shimizu

February 5, 2004

**MICHAEL HORABIK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**

